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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,649	02/13/2004	Michael David Metzger	52493.000367	5674

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EXAMINER

KOPPIKAR, VIVEK D

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3686

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03/19/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/777,649	Applicant(s) METZGER ET AL.	
	Examiner VIVEK D. KOPPIKAR	Art Unit 3686	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/25/09.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

1. Claims 1-22 have been examined in this application. This communication is a non-final office action in response to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE0 filed on February 25, 2009).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 6, 10-11, 16-20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by US Patent Number 6,151,584 to Papierniak in view of US Patent Application Publication 2004/0044763 to Besson and in even further view of US Patent Number 7,325,076 to Morrison.

(A) As per claim 1, Papierniak teaches a system for performing data collection of insurance related submitted data provided by an applicant for insurance on a submitted form (Papierniak: Abstract), the system comprising:

a data input portion that inputs the submitted form so that the submitted data on the submitted form is available to a data entry operator (Papierniak: Col. 10, Ln. 47-54 and Col. 21, Ln. 29-35); and

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a data collector tool, which processes entered data that is entered by the data entry operator, onto an internal electronic form, based on the submitted data submitted by the applicant (Papierniak: Col. 18, Ln. 51-6),

the data collector including:

a form flow portion that presents the data entry operator with a series of form flows for collection of the submitted data, the form flows progressing through various user interface screens in collection of the submitted data, (Papierniak: Col. 6, Ln. 60-62 and Col. 22, Ln. 6-13);

and

a metadata portion that generates metadata, the metadata containing information about entered data, the metadata being progressively generated during progression of the form flows through the various user interface screen (Papierniak: Col. 12, Ln. 2-16 and Col. 21, Ln. 7-10).

Papierniak does not teach the that the submitted data contains insurance related data, however, this feature is taught by Besson (Section [0108]. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Papierniak with these aforementioned teachings from Besson with the motivation of having a means of having an automated distributed workflow management with respect to creating, reporting, and analyzing risk related (e.g. insurance related) data, as recited in Besson (Section [0007]).

Papierniak in view of Besson does not teach the following feature which is taught by Morrison (Col. 9, Ln. 41-47 and Col. 1, Ln. 65-Col. 2, Ln. 3):

wherein the form flows use content sensitive logic

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Papierniak in view of Besson with the above teachings from Morrison with the motivation of having a means of displaying a particular form based on the data input by a user, as recited in Morrison (Col. 1, Ln. 65-Col. 2, Ln. 3 and Col. 2, Ln. 18-19).

(B) As per claim 2, in Papierniak, the metadata is based on input by the data entry operator (Papierniak: Col. 20, Ln. 63-66)

(C) As per claim 3, in Papierniak, the metadata portion presents the data entry operator with a plurality of metadata to choose from so as to capture information about the entered data (Papierniak: Col. 19, Ln. 4-11).

(D) As per claim 6, in Papierniak the metadata portion presents the metadata to the data entry operator using labels that are each associated with at least one field on the internal electronic form (Papierniak: Col. 17, Ln. 52-59).

(E) As per claims 10-11, Papierniak does not explicitly recite that a single label containing the metadata is associated with a single or plural fields on the internal electronic form, however, the Office takes the position that this feature is inherent in Papierniak (Col. 19, Ln 5-10 and Col. 20, Ln. 37-43)) because the cited section of Papierniak discusses managing various sets of metadata. Because the metadata is organized into sets and each set corresponds to a particular business (business's forms), it is inherent that each label for a set of metadata corresponds to at least a single field or multiple fields of information or data which originate from the forms of a business.

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(F) As per claim 15, in Papierniak the data tool collector allows a subsequent user to vary the metadata of the internal electronic form after initial entry by the data entry operator and to properly reflect that correction (Papierniak: Col. 21, Ln. 51-62).

(G) As per claim 16, in Papierniak the data input portion processes a scanned version of the submitted form and presents the scanned version of the submitted form to the data entry operator via the user interface (Papierniak: Col. 21, Ln. 29-35).

(H) As per claims 17-19, these claims are substantially similar to Claims 1-3, respectively, and are therefore rejected in the same manner as these claims, as set forth above.

(I) As per claim 20, this claim is substantially similar to Claim 6, above, and is therefore rejected in the same manner as this claim, which is set forth above.

(J) As per claim 21, this claim is substantially similar to Claim 1, above, and is therefore rejected in the same manner as this claim, which is set forth above.

4. Claim 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papierniak in view of Besson in view of Morrison, as applied to Claim 1, above, and in even further view of US Patent Number 6,415,284 to D'Souza.

(A) As per claim 12, the combined teachings of Papierniak in view of Besson in view of Morrison do not teach or suggest that the data collector tool includes a validation portion, the validation portion performing validation checks on the entered data on the internal electronic form, however, this features is well known in the computer software and data management and information technology fields, as illustrated by D'Souza (Col. 1, Ln. 53-59). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Papierniak with the

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above teachings from D'Souza with the motivation of having a means of validating data, as recited in D'Souza (Col. 1, Ln. 53-54).

(B) As per claim 13, the teachings of Paperniak do not teach that the validation portion performs a validation process on a field upon exiting a field, however, the Office takes the position that this feature is inherent because a validation module cannot perform a validation process until it has read all the information in a field and this cannot be done until the validation module has exited the field.

5. Claims 4-5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papierniak in view of Besson in view of Morrison, as applied to Claim 3, above, and in further view of US Patent Application Publication 2004/0123202 to Talagala.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papierniak in view of Besson in view of Morrison and in even further view of Talagala.

(A) As per claims 4-5, Papierniak does not teach the following feature which is taught by Talagala (Section [0034]):

wherein the data collector tool provides the data entry operator with the ability to reflect deficient information on the submitted form in conjunction with identifying the deficient information with metadata and wherein the deficient information includes at least one of altered information, blank information and unreadable information.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Papierniak in view of Besson in view of Morrison with the aforementioned teachings from Talagala with the motivation of having

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a means of detecting errors in data (storage devices), as recited in Talagala (Section [0004]).

(B) As per claim 22, this claim is substantially similar to Claims 1, 5, 6, and is therefore rejected on the same basis as this claim, which is set forth above. The only additional feature which is the following which is taught by Morrison (Col. 9, Ln. 41-47 Col. 1, Ln. 65-Col. 2, Ln. 3):

wherein the form flows using content sensitive logic including:

determining whether first information or second information is in a field of a user interface screen;

the form flow portion being provided to, upon detecting the first information is entered into the field, generate a first set of questions based on the detecting of the first information; and

the form flow portion being provided to, upon detecting the second information is entered into the field, generate a second set of questions based on the detecting of the second information. (Note: The Office takes the position that the step of displaying additional forms in Morrison is the equivalent of generating either a first or second set of questions based on detecting either a first or second set of information (i.e. user input) because, since the forms taught in Morrison are collecting data or input from the user, the Office takes the position that it is inherent that these generated forms in Morrison have questions on them in order to prompt the user to enter data into the forms.)

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Papierniak with these aforementioned teachings from Morrison with the motivation of having a means of displaying a particular

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form based on the data input by a user, as recited in Morrison (Col. 1, Ln. 65-Col. 2, Ln. 3 and Col. 2, Ln. 18-19).

6. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papierniak, as applied to Claim 1, above, and in further view of US Patent Number 7,117,450 to Chaudhri.

(A) As per claims 7-9, Papierniak does not teach the following features, however, this feature is taught by Chaudhri (Col. 1, Ln. 25-47): wherein the metadata portion presents the metadata to the data entry operator using labels by modifying the labels using font attributes, wherein the font attributes include one of color, bold, underline and italics, and wherein the data entry operator controls the operation of the metadata portion using hotkeys, such that the data entry operator controls the labeling of the fields using metadata as the data entry operator desires, the hotkeys comprising a series of keystrokes.

At the time of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have modified the teachings of Papierniak with the above teachings from Chaudhri with the motivation of having a means of adjusting font attributes, as recited in Chaudhri (Col. 1, Ln. 25-27).

7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Papierniak in view of Besson in view of Morrison in view of D'Souza as applied to Claim 12, above, and in further view of US Patent Number 6,731,993 to Carter.

The combined teachings of Papierniak in view of D'Souza do not teach that the validation portion performs a validation process on a page upon exiting a page nor do

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they teach that the internal electronic form is arranged based on pages of the internal electronic form, however, this feature is taught by Carter (Col. 9, Ln. 50-54).

At the time of the invention one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have modified the aforementioned teachings of Papierniak in view of D'Souza with the above teachings from Carter with the motivation of having a means of performing a validation check, as recited in Carter (Col. 9, Ln. 50-54).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments, filed on February 25, 2009, with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivek Koppikar, whose telephone number is (571) 272-5109. The examiner can normally be reached from Monday to Friday between 8 AM and 4:30 PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry O'Connor, can be reached at (571) 272-6787.

10. Official replies to this Office action may now be submitted electronically by registered users of the EFS-Web system. Information on EFS-Web tools is available on the Internet at: <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/portal/tools.htm>. An EFS-Web Quick-Start Guide is available at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/portal/efs/quick-start.pdf>.

Alternatively, official replies to this Office action may still be submitted by any *one* of fax, mail, or hand delivery. **Faxed replies should be directed to the central fax at**

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(571) 273-8300. Mailed replies should be addressed to “Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.” Hand delivered replies should be delivered to the “Customer Service Window, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.”

Sincerely,

/Vivek D Koppikar/

Examiner, Art Unit 3686

March 17, 2009